

Every member of Instructional Quality Commission.

I am California resident and a parent. Like thousands of Hindu parents, I have been monitoring closely the Framework correction process over last several months.

I have come across this week's draft recommendations by CHSSP. It is shocking to observe such a volume of barrage of negative changes by mainly South Asia Geopolitical group.

In interest of time, my immediate recommendation is in relation with CHSSP's comment#2501: Removal of Religious Diversity in Hinduism.

Request is to carefully review my attached letter with utmost care.

Thanks
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20th March, 2016.

From:

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20th March, 2016.

To:

Instructional Quality Commission,

Department of Education,

Sacramento, CA

RE: CHSSP's Comment 2501 To Remove Hinduism's Profound Acceptance of Religious Diversity.
Is IQC Going To Consider CHSSP's Blatant Denial of Reality? How About Facts?

Some Facts Below.

I have come to understanding this week of a grave attempt to remove Hinduism's positive traits and redefine Hinduism, in my own state's History and Social Sciences Framework.

Specifically I am referring to CHSSP's comment 2501, Page 214, lines 860-864, as below.

Current text: "Many of the central practices of Hinduism today, including home and temple worship, yoga and meditation, rites of passage (samskaras), festivals, pilgrimage, respect for saints and gurus, **and, above all, a profound acceptance of religious diversity**, developed over this period."

Suggested change (by South Asian faculty): "Many of the central practices of Hinduism today, including home and temple worship, yoga and meditation, rites of passage (samskaras), festivals, pilgrimage, and respect for saints and gurus, developed over this period."

I call upon you to **REJECT** this suggestion. While thousands of Hindus and non Hindus with Indian origin would provide you with numerous facts and reasons, below are my points behind the ask considering limited time.

1. I understand CHSSP has considered this group's following justification

p. 214 Lines 860-64: This sentence is inaccurate and misleading: "Many of the central practices of Hinduism today, including home and temple worship, yoga and meditation, rites of passage (samskaras), festivals, pilgrimage, respect for saints and gurus, and, above all, a profound acceptance of religious diversity, developed over this period."

There are clear differences between Vedism and what is generally referred to as Hinduism, contrary to the statement that the major components of Hinduism are "...easily discernible in the Vedic period..."

We recommend deleting a "profound acceptance for religious diversity" from the above sentence as there was much internal conflict and persecution among sects during the Vedic Period which eventually contributed to the emergence of Jainism and Buddhism.

Here, where are scholarly facts did CHSSP consider to remove the 'and, above all, a profound acceptance of religious diversity'? Is it mere claim made by the South Asian faculty of 'there was much internal

conflict and persecution among sects during the Vedic Period’? Community shall demand evidences here - those are forcing such a suggestion,. and weigh them against the reality.

2. The justification provided by South Asian group is self-contradicting for following reason. Consider the fact that Buddha and Mahavir were started Buddhism and Jainism respectively , and did not have to face prosecution. Contrast this with Jesus who had to face prosecution, or Mohammad who had to face violence.

3. Buddhism and Jainism not only started in Historical India, they have unbroken continuity in India with millions of followers each. Contrast this with religious conquests that occurred in cultures outside historic India.

4. This suggestion made here removes a positive aspect of Hindu thought of religious pluralism.

5. Rigveda 1:164:46, has "Ekam sat vipra bahudha vadanti" - Truth is one; sages call it many names. Vedas, Upanishads from the ancient past, till recent regional Indian saints such as Saint Dnyaneswara's Pasayadan where he says in Marathi 'Jo Je Wanchhil To Te Laho' meaning 'let everyone including Animals get what they desire to be truly happy'

<http://www.yogananda.com.au/upa/Upanishads01.html>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dnyaneshwari>

I am providing only links as I am not a 'Scholar' especially a South Asia scholar:). Further it seems South Asians scholars have timed with CHSSP such that Hindus get minimum time to respond. I encourage you to carefully investigate further, before IQC puts the California Education system in a biased situation.

6. Throughout its long history, the Hindu tradition has shared common soil with other religious traditions. India is the homeland of Buddhism, which flourished in India for over 1,500 years from the time of the Buddha in the sixth century BCE until about the eleventh century. The Jain tradition of monks, nuns, and laity, which began about the same time as the Buddhist tradition, continues to flourish in India today. The Christian tradition also has ancient roots in India, where Christians trace their origins back to the Apostle Thomas in the first century. The Jews have an old community started by traders in the southern state of Kerala and in Bombay. The Parsis are followers of the Zoroastrian tradition with roots in what is now Iran.

(Harvard University pluralism project <http://www.pluralism.org/religion/hinduism/introduction/diversity>)

6. Right from Vedic period, Hinduism has a strong continued record of different traditions which differ in school of thought but continue to coexists.

7. This pluralism is one of the foundational contributions of the Hindu perspective. Difference, in this view, is not a threat to oneness, but constitutive of oneness. In today's California, who has right to deprive students i.e. citizen of modern world a privilege to know that pluralism is not a new concept?

8. Is CHSSP going to ignore a living reality or side with doctored facts? Erring here is an to act of crime against followers of a major religion.

9. The original text provides students with a unique opportunity to discuss pluralism and religious diversity. Suggestion to remove denies millions of children in California from this.

I am observing this pattern in many of the South Asian faculty's edit that are recommended by CHSSP. I am concerned over the recent acceptance by CHSSP and would like to ask for more investigation here.

I trust you shall make careful consideration.

Cordially

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